appropriately take up India's request for joining the project with the Governments of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

(b) and (c) As the discussions are at a preliminary stage, implementation plan has not been worked out.

Allocation of kerosene to Jharkhand

†2214. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Jharkhand have demanded to allot the kerosene for agriculture purposes;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of Government's policy regarding separate allotment of kerosene for agricultural purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No such request has been received from the State Government of Jharkhand.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

(c) PDS kerosene is an allocated product. The Government of India allocates kerosene to the States/Union Territories (UTs) under the Public Distribution System (PDS). In terms of the kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Order, 1993, kerosene supplied under the PDS shall not be used for any purpose other than cooking and illumination. There is no separate PDS SKO allocation for the purpose of agriculture.

Imposition of fine on ONGC and Reliance

†2215. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Director General of Hydrocarbon has recommended to impose penalty on ONGC and Reliance Industries Limited;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) if so, the amount of penalty suggested by the Director General of Hydrocarbon on both the institutions;

(c) whether this penalty for these institutions is proposed due to breach of commercial commitment by them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) As per Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs), contractors were to complete committed minimum work programme in terms of respective PSCs in given period for exploration phases. As ONGC and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) could not complete the minimum work programme in some of the blocks as per the provisions of the PSCs, payments in lieu of unfinished minimum work programme had been asked from ONGC and RIL. In addition to the provisions of the PSCs, extension in exploration phases sought beyond six months are decided by the Government in terms of extension policy formulated in April 2006. Under this policy, contractors are required to pay liquidated damages for grant of extension in terms of the provisions of the policy.

(b) RIL has deposited payment of Rs. 57.87 crore against a due amount of Rs.89.3 crore in lieu of unfinished work programme for four blocks.

ONGC and its consortium partners have been asked to deposit Rs.117.8 crore in lieu of unfinished work programme for six blocks.

ONGC has deposited an amount of Rs.60.75 crore against a due amount of Rs. 76.48 crore as liquidated damages for availing extensions in exploration phases.

(c) and (d) As per the provisions of the respective PSCs, payments in lieu of unfinished minimum work programme for six blocks of ONGC and four blocks of RIL has been asked for. In addition, liquidated damages for seeking extensions beyond PSC provisions were also asked from ONGC in respect of seven blocks in accordance with the extension policy.